

An ugly MSU story

This is the story of last 5 years of my 39 year tenure in MSU, where I proudly served to improve the Geometry/Topology group of math dept. Generally feel I succeeded in this mission. Unfortunately, in recent years MSU has been marred with university-wide corruption, stemming from protecting sexual predators, and covering abuse complaints. Loss of ethical standards have been the main victims of this conduct. Many administrators including presidents, dean, provost and general counsels resigned as a results of these scandals. My path crossed with this corruption, when I criticized the crooked chair election, improper hiring practices and the racist Islamophobic conduct in math grad office.

After my criticism I was immediately targeted by the administration. Chair started to disrupt my Spring/2015 classes by forging class registration records, hoping to declare them closed for “low registration”, but his plan failed! He even had Provost office issue “Abrogation of Duty” penalty and cut my salary, for not teaching my assignments, even though I was. But to his dismay, he found out I taught both of my assigned classes with success with more than required number of students. It is incredible that he would try this when I was carrying the heaviest teaching load of my career. My grad class produced 5 PhD’s, and the class notes has been published as a book by Oxford press (this is an exceptionally high success rate for any grad research class, by any standards). At the end, for a face-saving measure, Chair sent an apologetic public message, offering me one course teaching release for the following semester, in order to make up for the inconvenience he caused in my teaching. You would think this would be the end of it, right? Wrong! In MSU, administrators would never accept their misconduct. He refused to ask admin to remove “Abrogation of Duty” penalty from my record.

After that I tried to get admin erase this ridiculous “Abrogation of Duty” penalty from my record. My request to have a grievance hearing from FGO was denied for no reason. My requests to correct my academic record was considered to be threats, and I was put on dismissal track. To this date they couldn’t produce one insulting or threatening email from me. With this lie, they put me in front of a *Disciplinary Panel*, which they themselves formed, giving the panel some slanderous hate letters from some faculty and staff, which they themselves collected <https://selmanakbulut.com/panel.pdf> Most of these letter writers have been recipients of deans awards (just stating this fact in my twits, deans office filed a complaint against me in OIE, but OIE did not find my tweet to be inappropriate).

Finally the provosts office put me in front of *Hearing Committee* for “Dismissal for cause hearing”. It is no secret that provost Youatt had been trying to fire me all along, while covering chair Promislow’s forgeries. In the meantime Youatt had to resign for not reporting sexual abuse scandals (she had been charged protecting sexual predators). My hearing was conducted like a court hearing in campus courthouse. Clearly this was another “kangaroo court”, where the judge and jury was chosen by the accuser :) I had a wonderful lawyer Amy Doukoure. Charging party consisted of 3 members: CNS dean Duxbury as the leader of the charging party (but he never showed up in any of the court hearings), Keith Promislow who was playing the role of prosecutor, and the university’s attorney Theresa Kelley (I recalled her name from media, as an attorney accused of covering rapist athletic coach Nassar). Amy did a wonderful job of putting the chair Keith Promislow on stand and have him admit his many lies and deceptions (in order to panelize me), in fact he cried out-loud in midst of it. I felt bad about Keith’s humiliation, but at the same time felt good that finally this nightmare was over and the truth has come out.. Surprise surprise! I was wrong, Hearing Committee (J.Reifenberg, J.Smith, G.Strasburg, W.Whitbeck) as Provost’s handpicked jury, recommended my firing :) A total joke.

Board of Trustees quickly fired me in their February 2020 meeting, by giving me one day notice to vacate my office, and by confiscating my personal computer, and terminating my health insurance in the middle of this covid-19 health crisis. These administrators have so much hate it is incredible! I may be the only professor in history who is fired for teaching his assigned classes with distinction, a fitting example of the sardonic dictum “No good deed goes unpunished”. But I myself is a believer of the dictum “No bad deed remains hidden!”. That is why I take trouble to write about these events.

Epilogue: During my dismissal process (October 2019) it turned out that math chair Promislow’s friend Stat grad-chair Shlomo Levental’s son Yuval, who I never met, was entering many bogus evaluations to the teaching evaluation site koofers.com, about me being a terrible teacher. After noticing this, my attorney sent him a Cease & Desist order, and got him to admit his forgeries. What is the end result? Well, koofers.com not only deleted his forgeries, but also deleted all of my evaluations from my past. Now I am a dismissed professor with no past teaching record. In short Promislow’s forgeries cost me 39 year of my distinguished academic record, and Levental’s forgeries cost me my teaching evaluation records from all my past. Another shameful act of the MSU admin was their attempt to confiscate my NSF research grant funds (thanks to Harvard University, for rescuing my grant, and allowing me to manage it through their offices). Later on, by appealing to FOIA, two local reporters, requested my email correspondences with MSU, to see if they were insulting or threatening, as claimed by MSU. Of course they were not! “Camur at izi kalsin” -Turkish proverb (translation “*Sling mud to someone, hoping some will stick*” :)

References for further reading:

References

- [1] *More detailed past summary* <https://selmanakbulut.com/minions1.pdf>
- [2] *Bullying in dept meeting* <http://selmanakbulut.com/motion7.pdf>
- [3] *My letter to dean, which was ignored* <http://www.selmanakbulut.com/papers/dean.pdf>
- [4] *Deans faulty report (lies encircled)* <http://www.selmanakbulut.com/papers/comittee1.pdf>
- [5] *Crucial documents to inspect* <http://www.selmanakbulut.com/papers/Events.pdf>
- [6] *Some faculty salary raises* <http://www.selmanakbulut.com/papers/15-16.salary.pdf>
- [7] *Hearing Committee court records* http://selmanakbulut.com/msu_court.html
- [8] *Our response to Hearing Committee decision* http://selmanakbulut.com/final_remarks.pdf
- [9] *More documents stored here* <https://selmanakbulut.com/msu.html>